

Arabs bend Nixon ear

ANALYSIS

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DAMASCUS — American officials contend President Nixon fully expected the escalation of Arab demands that culminated with what one official called "blood-curdling" words from President Hafez Assad of Syria.

Assistant Press Secretary Gerald Warren insisted that the President had expected the Arab leaders to "state their positions" with vigor.

Stating views means that, unfazed by the presence of the President of the United States, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and President Assad of Syria made increasingly intransigent remarks as the trip progressed about demands for return of all lands taken by Israel in the 1967 war, with particular emphasis on Arab control of Jerusalem and a Palestine state"

The President made no attempt to argue any points, contending that he was acting as a listener.

But apparently the Arab leaders got the impression that they had a supporter. As King Faisal put in his statement at Nixon's departure:

"Anybody who stands against you, Mr. President, in the United States of America, or outside the United States of America, or stands against us, your friends in this part of the world, obviously has one aim in mind, namely that of causing the splintering of the world, the wrong polarization of the world, the bringing about of mischief, which would not be conducive to tranquillity and peace in the world."
